

confidence and respect of the American people, but you carry our deep gratitude, as well. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who introduced the President; and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the War on Terrorism and Defense Appropriations Legislation

November 29, 2001

The House of Representatives yesterday took a bold step to ensure that we fully fund the war on terrorism. I commend the passage of the Defense Appropriation and the commitment it embodies to ensure that, even in war times, we be careful stewards of the taxpayers' money. We will fully support our troops in the field, provide the funds necessary to recover from the September 11th attacks, and spend whatever is necessary to defend our homeland. The agreement I reached with Congress in October provides sufficient funds to accomplish these goals at this time. I, therefore, urge the Senate to pass the Defense Appropriation without adding unwise spending that is not currently necessary.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Insurance Industry Terrorist Claims Legislation

November 29, 2001

I commend the House for taking an important step toward ensuring the continued availability of insurance for terrorist-related acts and for ensuring that victims of terrorism don't also become subjects of unfair lawsuits. Access to affordable insurance is necessary for a stable and productive economy where builders continue to build and investors continue to invest. It is time for the Senate to focus on this important issue.

Remarks at a Viewing of "Mark Twain Tonight"

November 29, 2001

Well, thank you all very much, and good evening. Tonight we'll see an extraordinary performer celebrating an extraordinary American life. And it is my honor to welcome you all here.

I particularly want to welcome Dixie Carter. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. I want to say to the students, thank you for coming, and thank you for taking interest in American literature. I want to thank your teachers, as well, and all the scholars who have studied the life and work of Mark Twain.

It's also my honor to introduce our host this evening. This performance helps mark the beginning of a series titled "A White House Salute to American Authors." Promoting American writers is one of Laura's, our First Lady's, projects as well as an enduring commitment in all her life.

All America has seen her love of learning and her love of literature. All of America has seen her grace and concern for children in a difficult time for our Nation. Our country is blessed by her calm and compassion, and I am blessed by her encouragement and her love.

Laura Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. at Ford's Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Dixie Carter. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 7507—National Diabetes Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the past century, we have made significant progress in our fight against disease. Through public health campaigns and aggressive research, we have eliminated polio

in the United States, reduced the harm of influenza outbreaks, and developed revolutionary new medications that provide relief and healing from many chronic and acute illnesses. However, effective treatments and cures to numerous other illnesses remain elusive and demand our continued attention and resources. One of the most prevalent and difficult of these is diabetes, which currently afflicts more than 16 million Americans.

Diabetes can cause blindness, renal disease, severe nerve damage, heart disease, strokes, and even death. This year approximately 800,000 men, women, and children in the United States will develop diabetes, and health officials estimate that it will be a contributing factor in almost 200,000 deaths. The total economic cost for providing medical treatment for diabetes patients and for disability and deaths related to the disease is approximately \$100 billion a year. More troubling are statistics indicating that more than 5 million Americans are unaware of their diabetic condition, seriously jeopardizing their long-term health and well-being. An additional 10 million citizens are at high-risk of developing type 2 diabetes due largely to physical inactivity, obesity, and poor diet.

Recent scientific findings demonstrate that modest, consistent exercise and a healthy diet can curtail the risk of type 2 diabetes in individuals by nearly 60 percent. This information provides great hope in our efforts to reduce the incidence of diabetes and creates a renewed sense of urgency to ensure that all Americans are aware of practical steps that can be taken to reduce their risk for diabetes.

My Administration is strongly committed to fighting diabetes both by working in cooperation with dedicated staff and volunteers of private organizations to develop strong public education programs and by increased Federal funding for medical research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have established the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) to help familiarize Americans with the risks of diabetes and what can be done to minimize its complica-

tions. The NDEP will also offer practical information about preventing the cardiovascular complications of diabetes through the campaign, "Be Smart About Your Heart: The ABCs of Diabetes." Medical research is providing exciting advances in our prevention and treatment strategies for diabetes, and my fiscal year 2002 budget reflects a significant increase in funding to continue the valuable diabetes research programs at the NIH.

I am confident that our Nation's health care professionals, nurses, scientists, educators, and volunteers will continue to provide quality care to those who currently suffer from diabetes, and, through their work, we will one day find a cure for this terrible disease. On the observance of National Diabetes Month, we honor those who are working diligently to advance our knowledge and understanding of diabetes. We also recognize the value of educating ourselves about health risks and the importance of healthy lifestyle habits.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Diabetes Month. I call on all Americans to increase their awareness of the risk factors and symptoms related to diabetes and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Proclamation 7508—National Hospice Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year, approximately 700,000 terminally ill patients and their families rely on the invaluable end-of-life care provided by the 3,100 hospice programs located in the United States. Hospice care allows a terminally ill individual to receive professional medical services, pain management therapy, and emotional and spiritual support, without having to enter a hospital. This focus on the patient's quality of life during his or her last illness can make the best of the most challenging of situations.

Hospices create a compassionate atmosphere where patients will be able to die with dignity, preferably in their home environment, surrounded and supported by loved ones, familiar friends, and committed caregivers. Professional and compassionate hospice staff and volunteers, including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, and clergy, provide comprehensive care and attend to the particular needs and wishes of each patient. Family members and friends also receive counseling and bereavement care that help them cope with the impending loss of their loved one.

Individuals and groups in the private and public sectors are working together to strengthen and expand hospice programs and to promote their services as a positive alternative for terminally ill patients. Today, hospice care is a full partner in our Nation's health care system, furthering our efforts to provide medical services in more compassionate and cost-effective ways. More important, providing high-quality hospice care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care. My Administration remains committed to supporting health care programs like hospice that encourage quality medical care and frequent doctor-patient interaction.

With the observance of National Hospice Month, we recognize those who serve in our Nation's hospices, often as caregivers in the homes of hospice patients. Caring for a terminally ill patient can be emotionally painful, physically exhausting, and financially difficult. I call on all Americans to honor the professionals and volunteers who dedicate their lives to aiding the terminally ill through hospices. And we should use this observance as an opportunity to encourage and help those who take on the challenge of caring for a terminally ill patient in their home or in a hospice facility.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2001 as National Hospice Month. I encourage Americans to increase their awareness of the importance and availability of hospice service and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Proclamation 7509—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each December we turn our attention to the problem of drunk driving by observing National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Though the holidays bring